

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the subject application. These claims have been examined and stand rejected. None of the claims have been amended from their immediate prior version. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-27 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,304,277 to Hoekstra et al. ("Hoekstra"). Claims 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoekstra in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,801,715 to Norman. Claims 2, 3, 7-9, 11, 12 and 16-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoekstra in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,085,185 to Morris et al. ("Morris"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections based upon the following remarks.

The subject invention relates to providing systems and corresponding methods for generating a lower-resolution resultant image from an original higher-resolution image or digital negative and an edit list associated with the resultant image that is linked with the digital negative. The edit list, as described in the specification (page 11), is a sequence of image operations or image transforms that are applied to an image, and the resultant image is the result of applying the specified edit list to the digital negative at some specified resolution. Thus, a low-resolution image can be distributed that will facilitate fast downloads and display, while the edit list provides a link to the higher resolution digital negative in the event it is desired to produce the resultant image at a higher resolution.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of rendering a low-resolution resultant image at an embedded imaging device, including the following steps: capturing an original digital negative at the embedded imaging device at an original resolution, modifying the original digital negative to form a first resultant image at a first resolution, generating a first edit list with the first resultant image, associating the first edit list with the first resultant image, linking the first edit list to the original digital negative, displaying the first resultant digital image at the first resolution, modifying the first resultant image to form a second resultant image at the first resolution, generating a second edit list based upon the modifying of the first resultant image, associating the second edit list with the second resultant image, linking the second edit list to the

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original digital negative, storing the linked second edit list, the original digital negative and the second resultant image at the embedded imaging device, and displaying the second resultant image at the display device.

Similarly, independent claim 10 recites a system for rendering a low-resolution image from a higher resolution image. The system includes an embedded imaging device to capture an original digital negative at an original resolution, a means for generating a thumbnail digital image of the original digital negative at a first resolution, a means for modifying the thumbnail digital image to form a first resultant image at the first resolution, a means for generating a first edit list based upon the modifying of the digital image, a means for associating the first edit list with the first resultant image, a means for linking the first edit list to the original digital negative, a means for storing the linked first edit list, the original digital negative, and the first resultant image at the embedded imaging device, and a display device coupled to the embedded image device to display the thumbnail digital image and the first resultant image. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the combined features of each of claims 1 and 10 in Hoekstra.

Hoekstra describes modifying a digital image file according to the following steps (see, e.g., Col. 2, line 33 to Col. 3, line 15, and Col. 4, line 18 to Col. 6, line 55): (1) creating at a first location or first computing station a low resolution proxy file of a high resolution digital image file; (2) compressing the low resolution proxy file to form a compressed proxy file; (3) transmitting the compressed proxy file to a remote site or second computing station (e.g., an image correction site); (4) decompressing the compressed proxy file at the remote site or second computing station to restore the low resolution proxy file; (5) modifying the restored low resolution proxy file at the remote site or second computing station (e.g., by a correction specialist and in relation to exposure correction, color alteration, retouching, etc.); (6) saving the modifications as a script file at the remote site or second computing station; (7) transmitting the script file from the remote site or second computing station to the first location or first computing station; and (8) applying the script file to the high resolution digital file at the first location or first computing station to create a corrected high resolution digital image file (e.g., to apply the modifications made by the correction specialist at step (5) to the high resolution digital image

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file). Hoekstra defines the term "script file" as a file containing the list of image correction or other instructions representing the modifications performed in step (5) (see Col. 5, lines 56 to Col. 6, line 5). In other words, the script file that is transmitted from the remote site or second computing station to the first location or first computing station is nothing more than a series of instructions (i.e., the script file does not include the modified low resolution proxy image).

Hoekstra fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of capturing an original digital negative at an embedded imaging device at an original resolution and storing the linked second edit list, the original digital negative and the second resultant image at the embedded imaging device as recited in claim 1. In addition, Hoekstra fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of an embedded imaging device to capture an original digital negative at an original resolution and a means for storing the linked first edit list, the original digital negative, and the first resultant image at the embedded imaging device as recited in claim 10.

Initially, it is noted that Hoekstra discloses a first location or first computing station that reduces the pixel count of an original, high resolution digital image to create a low resolution digital image file. There is simply no disclosure or suggestion that this first location or first computing station includes an embedded imaging device, or any other device for that matter, that is capable of capturing an original digital negative at an original resolution as recited in claims 1 and 10. Rather, it appears that the remote site or first computing station of Hoekstra simply stores a high resolution image file that was received in some manner, either directly or indirectly, from an imaging device (e.g., downloading of a digital image file from a digital camera to a computer) after having been captured by the imaging device (not the first location or first computing station).

Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Hoekstra that the first location or the first computing station (apparently interpreted by the Examiner as the recited embedded imaging device) stores an original digital negative, a linked second edit list and a second resultant image as recited in claim 1, or that the first location or the first computing station stores the original digital negative, a linked first edit list and a first resultant image as recited in claim 10. At best, the first location or first computing station of Hoekstra receives a script file from the remote site

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or second computing station and modifies the high resolution digital file according to the instructions provided in the script file. Any modified resultant image that is at a different resolution than the high resolution digital file exists at the remote site or second computing station of Hoekstra (where the modifying takes place). Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the first location or first computing station of Hoekstra does not store the resultant image file that was generated at the remote site, because the remote site does not even transfer this resultant image file to the first location in the first place.

Regarding the Examiner's indication (see page 3 of the present Office Action) that the recited storing feature is taught in Hoekstra at Col. 11, lines 16-30 (which indicate the user may further modify the file), it is respectfully submitted that this section of Hoekstra appears to refer to modifications occurring at the remote site and not the first location. For example, Hoekstra clearly indicates (see Col. 6, lines 56-60) that the screen displays of Figs. 2-8 (which are described in detail in Cols. 7-11, including the section cited by the Examiner) are for use by a user of a computer system running a commercially available image correction software package. In other words, the further modifications to the file referenced by the Examiner appear to occur at the remote site or second computing station during modification of the restored low resolution proxy file. Thus, this disclosure in Hoekstra does not indicate that the first location or first computing station stores anything other than the original, high resolution digital file, the script file, and a corrected high resolution digital image (which is not the same as a resultant image at a different resolution as recited in the claims).

In addition, the preamble of claim 1 clearly recites a method of rendering a low-resolution resultant image at an embedded imaging device. In Hoekstra, the rendering of a modified low resolution proxy file clearly occurs at a different location (i.e., the remote site or second computing station) from where the original, high resolution digital image file is located (i.e., the first location or first computing station). Accordingly, claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated by and should be allowed over Hoekstra.

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Claims 2-9 and 11-18 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 or claim 10. Accordingly, these claims are also not anticipated by and should be allowed over Hoekstra, alone or in combination with any of the other cited references.

Independent claim 19 recites an on-demand method of transferring a lower resolution resultant image from a first node to a second node that preserves an ability to form a higher resolution image at the second node. The method includes the following steps: (a) generating a first resultant image at a first resolution; (b) rasterizing the first resultant image to form a second resultant image at a second resolution; (c) transferring the second resultant image to the second node; (d) selecting a third resolution at the second node; and (e) rasterizing the second resultant image at the second node to form a third resultant image at the third resolution.

Similarly, independent claim 27 recites a system for transferring a lower resolution resultant image between nodes while preserving an ability to form a higher resolution resultant image. The system includes a first node including a processor configured to receive a digital negative of an original digital image generated from an imaging device, to modify the digital negative to form a first resultant image, to generate a first edit list based upon the modification of the digital negative, and to link the first edit list with the digital negative; and a second node including a processor configured to receive the first resultant image from the first node, to modify the first resultant image to form a second resultant image, to generate a second edit list based upon the modification of the first resultant image, and to link the second edit list with the digital negative. Claim 27 further recites that the first and second resultant images are at a lower resolution than the digital negative. There is no combination of Hoekstra with Morris that should render claims 19 and 27 obvious.

In rejecting claim 19, the Examiner acknowledges that Hoekstra fails to teach steps (c) through (e) of claim 19. In rejecting claim 27, the Examiner acknowledges that Hoekstra fails to teach a second node as recited in claim 27. However, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Hoekstra to include these features of claims 19 and 27 based upon the teachings of Morris. Applicant respectfully disagrees that Morris can be reasonably combined with Hoekstra to render these claims obvious.

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Morris describes an object management and delivery system, where objects such as written documents are scanned or captured and are stored at and retrievable from a storage location for subsequent modification. The processing steps in Morris involve the transfer of objects from a storage location to a work station (e.g., a computer), followed by modification of the objects (e.g., addition or deletion of certain pages from a document) at the work station and subsequent transfer of the modified objects to the storage location. The series of operations in Morris always involve the transfer of the object itself, in original or modified form, from one location to another. This differs significantly from Hoekstra, where the primary purpose is to minimize the transmission of large amounts of data between work stations.

There is no reasonable motivation to combine the teachings of Hoekstra with the teachings of Morris, as suggested by the Examiner, in relation to the additional features of claims 19 and 27 that are not taught by Hoekstra. The system and process of Morris involves the transfer or retrieval of the object to be modified at its original resolution (i.e., the resolution of the object is not reduced prior to transfer) from a storage location to a work station and the subsequent modified object from work station back to the storage location. The proposed modification of Hoekstra in order to include a token ring network as taught by Morris would defeat the intended purpose of Hoekstra, which is to eliminate altogether the transfer of modified objects (or modified low resolution proxy images) between work stations by instead facilitating the transfer of scripts including modification instructions. In other words, Morris is concerned with an object management and delivery system, while Hoekstra is concerned with eliminating the transfer of modified objects and also reducing the size of the original object to be modified. Thus, there is no reasonable combination of Hoekstra with Morris that should render claims 19 and 27 obvious.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-27. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, he is respectfully

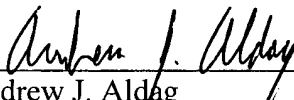
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requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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